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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Tuesday, February 13, 2007

Media Advisory

Secretary of Energy to Announce Decision on Preferred Alternative for  
Petroleum Reserve Expansion

Richton, Mississippi Identified as New Strategic Petroleum Reserve Site

WASHINGTON, DC - On Wednesday, February 14 , 2007, U.S. Secretary of Energy Samuel W. Bodman will deliver remarks at the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg, MS, and sign the Record of Decision (ROD) designating Richton, MS, as the preferred site for the expansion of the US Strategic Petroleum Reserve. The ROD announcement follows a 30-day no-action period following the publication of EPA's environmental impact statement addressing the potential increase of storage capacity by 273 million barrels. He will be accompanied by Mississippi Governor Haley Barbour.

As an inland site, Richton will have less vulnerability to the impact of hurricanes and will be connected by pipeline to the Capline pipeline system and to refiners and marine facilities in Pascagoula for distribution.

NOTE: Media should confirm attendance to Pete Smith (601) 576-2009 and plan to arrive at the event site by 1:30 PM for check in.

WHO: Secretary of Energy Samuel W. Bodman

Mississippi Governor Haley Barbour

WHAT: Remarks and Signing of Record of Decision

Media Availability to follow

WHEN: Wednesday, February 14, 2007  
2:00 PM CST

WHERE: University of Southern Mississippi  
Thad Cochran Center  
121 West Memorial Drive  
Room #218  
Hattiesburg, MS 39406

For information on the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, visit:

<http://www.fossil.energy.gov/programs/reserves>

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